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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/146, entitled "Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.

Throughout the Second Decade, successive General Assembly resolutions and the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples have kept this issue firmly on the agenda of the Organization. The Special Committee has continued its efforts to strengthen consultation mechanisms and dialogue with the administering Powers and assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The Secretary-General notes that developments in some Territories may provide the Special Committee and the administering Powers an opportunity to develop decolonization plans on a case-by-case basis with the participation of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

* A/65/150

** The present report has been submitted for processing in late August to allow for as much coverage as possible of the period of the Second International Decade.

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I. Introduction

1. On 8 December 2000, at the conclusion of the first Decade, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146, which, inter alia, declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action for the Second Decade, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General, document A/46/634/Rev.1 of 13 December 1991. The Assembly called upon the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to develop a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations on decolonization.

2. Views and suggestions submitted by Member States to the Secretary-General were summarized in a plan of action for the first Decade, which remained largely relevant to the Second Decade. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/146, the plan of action was updated as necessary and was included as an annex to the report of the Secretary-General, A/56/61 of 22 March 2001.

3. That plan of action contained recommendations to the international community, the administering Powers, namely, France, New Zealand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, and other Member States, the specialized agencies, programmes and intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Special Committee.

4. At the midpoint of the Second Decade, in accordance with the plan of action, the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly a report on its implementation, as well as on suggestions and trends that emerged from the deliberations of United Nations organs and the specialized agencies contained in document A/60/71 of 5 April 2005.

5. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/146, entitled "Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism". Replies from Member States, and from United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations in connection with the Second Decade are contained in annexes I and II, respectively.

II. Actions taken during the Decade by United Nations organs

A. General Assembly

6. During the period under review, the General Assembly annually considered in plenary meetings or in the Special Political Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) a number of questions relating to decolonization and adopted resolutions and decisions on them. In particular, the Assembly considered the following items:

(a) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Under this item, the Assembly considers the yearly report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation

of the Declaration. The Special Committee monitors developments in all Non-Self-Governing Territories and reports on them to the Assembly, making recommendations on the following Territories — American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara — as well as on the issue of the dissemination of information on decolonization;

(b) The question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas);[1]

(c) Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations;

(d) Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(e) Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations;

(f) Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

7. During the period under review, by its resolutions 56/74, 57/140, 58/111, 59/136, 60/119, 61/130, 62/120, 63/110 and 64/106, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the First and Second Decades in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. By its most recent resolution 64/106, the Assembly requested the Special Committee to formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. It also requested the Special Committee to develop and finalize before the end of the Second Decade and in cooperation with the administering Power and the Territory in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of its mandate and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

8. At its sixty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted several other resolutions and decisions relating to specific Territories and other decolonization items, as well as on the programme of work of the Special Committee. For instance, in its most recent resolution addressing the Turks and Caicos Islands (see resolution 64/104 B of 10 December 2009) and upon the recommendation of the Special Committee, the Assembly noted with concern the ongoing situation in the Territory, as well as the efforts of the administering Power to restore good governance and sound financial management, and called for restoration of constitutional arrangements providing for representative democracy through elected territorial Government as soon as possible.

[1] A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (see ST/CS/SER.A/42).

Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

9. By 2010, the Special Committee had been enlarged from 24 to 29 members as follows: Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia (the Plurinational State of), Chile, China, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Grenada, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Mali, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sierra Leone, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

10. As the policymaking organ of the General Assembly on decolonization, the Special Committee has been at the forefront of United Nations efforts to implement resolution 55/146 and the plan of action for the Second Decade. Information on its activities may be found in the annual report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly.[2]

11. As requested by the General Assembly, the Special Committee has carried out periodic reviews of the situation in each Territory, analysing progress made in the implementation of the Declaration. Such analysis has been based on information provided by the administering Powers pursuant to Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and the annual working papers prepared by the Secretariat, as well as information provided by the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories at hearings and regional seminars held by the Committee. On the basis of such analysis, the Special Committee has formulated recommendations to the General Assembly.

12. During the period under review, the Special Committee annually took decisions to continue to consider the question of Puerto Rico on the basis of reports prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee and heard petitioners on that subject. During the Second Decade, the Special Committee adopted annual resolutions on the question without a vote.

13. In accordance with the plan of action, the Special Committee has continued to hold annual regional seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately. The seminars have included the participation of the representatives of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts. Ten regional seminars were held during the Second Decade as follows: Cuba (2001), Fiji (2002 and 2006), Anguilla (2003), Papua New Guinea (2004), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (2005), Grenada (2007), Indonesia (2008), Saint Kitts and Nevis (2009) and New Caledonia (2010). In 2003, for the first time, the Special Committee held its regional seminar in a Non-Self-Governing Territory in the Caribbean and in 2010 in the Pacific. Throughout the Second Decade, the regional seminars have served as an effective forum for discussion of issues of concern to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and have afforded representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories the opportunity to present their views and recommendations to the Special Committee. The Special Committee reports on the seminars in its annual report to the General Assembly.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/65/23).

14. Pursuant to the plan of action, the Special Committee has continued to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of visiting missions to the Territories. In 2002, a special mission of the Special Committee visited Tokelau within the framework of a work programme on self-determination for the Territory, developed together with the representatives of Tokelau and New Zealand. Further, at the invitation of New Zealand and Tokelau, a representative of the Special Committee witnessed the referendums in Tokelau, in February 2006 and October 2007. At the 2003 regional seminar in Anguilla, the Special Committee used the opportunity to meet with civil society representatives and disseminate information on the decolonization work of the United Nations. At the invitation of the territorial Government of Bermuda, with the agreement of the United Kingdom, the Special Committee sent a special mission to the Territory in 2005. At the request of the territorial Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, with the cooperation of the United Kingdom, the Special Committee visited the Territory in April 2006. Throughout the period under review, the General Assembly reaffirmed that United Nations visiting missions are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and called upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories.

15. In compliance with the provisions of General Assembly resolutions and the objectives of the Second Decade, New Zealand, as administering Power, has shown exemplary cooperation with the Special Committee regarding Tokelau. The representative of France has also participated in the work of the Committee during its consideration of the question of New Caledonia and in particular, in the 2010 regional seminar held in Nouméa, New Caledonia, hosted by the Governments of France and New Caledonia. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America have not formally participated in meetings of the Committee. Informal contacts between the Special Committee and administering Powers have continued in order to explore means to improve cooperation as necessary.

B. Security Council

16. During the period under review, the Security Council continued to consider reports of the Secretary-General and adopted resolutions on the situation concerning Western Sahara. The Secretary-General's Envoys and Special Representatives continued to consult with the parties on ways to address the situation. Following the transmission by the Frente Polisario of a "Proposal of the Frente Polisario for a mutually acceptable political solution that provides for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara" and by Morocco of a document entitled "Moroccan initiative for negotiating an autonomy statute for the Sahara region" in April 2007, several rounds of formal negotiations were held under the auspices of the Secretary-General during 2007-2008, which proved inconclusive. In a follow-up to informal meetings of the parties during 2009 and early 2010, the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General visited the region in March 2010. He subsequently continued various consultations in New York, which resulted in no new developments. On 30 April 2010, the Security Council adopted resolution 1920 (2010), in which the Council welcomed the parties' commitment to continue the process of holding small, informal talks in preparation for a fifth round of negotiations.

17. During the period under review, the Security Council had also considered the item on the situation in Timor-Leste. As previously reported in detail (see A/55/497, para. 19 and A/60/71, para. 16), in 1999 the Security Council, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, established the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor, charged with administering the Territory and preparing it for independence, which was attained on 20 May 2002. The new country adopted the name Timor-Leste and on 27 September 2002, it became the 191st Member State of the United Nations. The United Nations continues to support Timor-Leste in a variety of ways, in particular through the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste, which has been playing a key role in supporting the Government of Timor-Leste in consolidating peace, stability and democratic governance.

C. Economic and Social Council

18. The Economic and Social Council has considered the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations annually and has adopted resolutions requesting the specialized agencies to examine and review conditions in each Territory, so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories. It also urged those specialized agencies and other organizations that had not yet provided assistance to the Territories to do so as soon as possible. The Economic and Social Council has considered annually reports of its President on the assistance provided by those organizations to Non-Self-Governing Territories. A representative of the Special Committee participated in the Council's annual consideration of the relevant item.

D. Trusteeship Council

19. As previously reported (A/55/497, paras. 21-22), in 1994 the Trusteeship Council concluded its consideration of the last Territory left on its agenda and adopted a resolution by which the Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Palau) was terminated.

E. Secretary-General

20. During the period under review, the Secretary-General has continued to exercise good offices, particularly with respect to Western Sahara. In addition, the Secretary-General has continued to promote the cause of decolonization through the work of the Departments of Political Affairs, Peacekeeping Operations (responsible for the United Nations presence in Western Sahara), General Assembly Affairs and Conference Management, and Public Information. As previously reported in detail (A/55/497, paras. 30-31), the Secretariat provides substantive, technical, administrative and information services to the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate.

21. Given the importance of disseminating information on decolonization to further the objectives of the Second Decade, the Department of Public Information has continued to broadcast information on decolonization through all available media and to publicize the work of the United Nations in this field. In accordance

with General Assembly resolution 61/129, the information leaflet entitled "What the UN can do to assist Non-Self-Governing Territories" was published in March 2007 and updated for the United Nations website on decolonization in 2009. According to Department of Public Information estimates, the decolonization websites, which are regularly maintained and updated by the Department of Political Affairs, receive approximately 12,000 page views per year. A detailed account of relevant informational activities is presented annually by the Department of Public Information and by the Department of Political Affairs to the Special Committee, which in turn reports to the General Assembly on this matter.

III. Action taken during the Decade by the specialized agencies

22. The General Assembly and the Special Committee have considered on a yearly basis the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations. A yearly report is issued on those activities by the President of the Economic and Social Council on the basis of replies received from those bodies. Recent information on their activities connected with the Second Decade can be found in annex II to the present report.

IV. Support for the Decade by Member States

23. The plan of action for the Second Decade requests specific action by Member States and particularly by the administering Powers to assist effectively the peoples of the Territories in their progress towards self-determination. In addition to the members of the Special Committee, a number of Member States have regularly participated in the work of the Special Committee as administering Powers or observers and have attended its meetings and regional seminars.

24. Over a dozen Member States and one non-Member State have provided scholarships to students from the Territories during the period under review. The Secretariat has made those offers public in annual reports.

25. The participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Committee has been referred to in paragraphs 14 and 15 above. Specific replies from Member States on their activities in support of the Second Decade are reproduced in annex I to the present report.

V. Proposal for a Third Decade

26. In view of the conclusion of the Second Decade, the Special Committee held discussions on its future work. In this regard, its examination of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/146 and achievements of the Second Decade took into account the outcome of the Fifteenth Summit Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 11 to 16 July 2009, including the renewal of the call to States Members of the United Nations to speed up the process of decolonization towards the complete elimination of colonialism.

27. Furthermore, the members of the Special Committee who participated in the Pacific regional seminar held in Nouméa, New Caledonia, from 18 to 20 May 2010, supported calls for a third Decade.

28. On 18 June 2010, the Special Committee, having reviewed the progress with regard to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/146 and of the plan of action for the Second Decade, adopted a resolution in which, inter alia, it decided to recommend that the General Assembly should declare the period 2011-2020 the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. By the same resolution, the Committee called upon Member States to intensify their efforts to continue to implement the plan of action, and to cooperate with the Special Committee in updating it as necessary, with a view to using it as the basis for a plan of action for the Third International Decade, and called upon the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the Special Committee to develop a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the resolution on decolonization, including resolutions on specific territories. The resolution has been submitted to the General Assembly in the form of a recommendation in the report of the Special Committee on its work during 2010.[3]

VI. Conclusions

29. The end of the Second Decade coincides with the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in resolution 1514 (XV) adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 1960, by which Member States proclaimed the necessity of bringing colonialism to a speedy end. Since then, a large number of former colonial Territories have achieved independence and many former Trust and Non-Self-Governing Territories have exercised their right to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration. The past 10 years have seen several achievements, in particular the independence of East Timor as Timor-Leste and thus its successful decolonization. Furthermore, there was considerable progress on the question of Tokelau towards a fully negotiated decolonization outcome.

30. In the case of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and Gibraltar, the Special Committee and the General Assembly have continued to appeal to the Governments involved to resume negotiations on the relevant issues, including those related to sovereignty.

31. On Western Sahara, the question continues to receive consideration by the General Assembly and the Security Council as well as in the context of my good offices.

32. Furthermore, numerous intermediary activities mandated by the General Assembly were accomplished during the Second Decade, including the consideration of reports to the General Assembly; the annual preparation of Secretariat working papers on each of the Territories; visiting missions; the organization of annual seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions in alternate years; and the enlisting of worldwide support for the objectives of the Declaration, inter alia, through the United Nations website on decolonization. As a result,

[3] Ibid., chap. XII, draft resolution X.

Member States, the Special Committee as well as representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, experts, non-governmental organizations and civil society were afforded several opportunities to make their views known, analyse each Territory's situation, and make recommendations as appropriate.

33. Last but not least, some specialized agencies and regional commissions have facilitated the participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in their bodies as observers or associate members, enabling them to become eligible also to participate in world conferences on economic and social issues, a development that has been welcomed in General Assembly resolutions on the subject.

34. Yet, against the backdrop of the achievements of the Second Decade, the task of decolonizing the remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories has to be completed, and requires the concerted efforts of all concerned. Vital among these efforts are those of the relevant administering Power and the Special Committee. Formal and informal dialogue aimed at improving cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers continues to constitute an essential element in efforts to move the process of decolonization forward.

35. It will be recalled that the General Assembly has requested the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out the actions approved by the General Assembly in the context of the First and Second Decades. In addition to the aforementioned mandated activities, which continue to be requested of the Special Committee, other actions include the formulation of specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism; and to develop and finalize, in cooperation with the administering Powers and the Territories in question, a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis. The Second Decade has provided a useful framework for international action and served as a reminder of what needs to be done. Special attention has to be given to each of the remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories in their new unique settings.

36. The Special Committee and the General Assembly have reiterated the position that such factors as the size of territory, population, geographical location and limited natural resources should in no way delay the speedy exercise by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of their inalienable right to self-determination, including independence. Furthermore, they have reaffirmed that all administering Powers are obliged, under the Charter and in accordance with the Declaration, to create economic, social and other conditions in the Territories under their administration which will enable those Territories to achieve genuine self-government and economic self-reliance.

37. Some of the trends described above may provide for the mapping of promising new avenues in the future. This may include an in-depth examination by the Special Committee, the administering Powers and all others concerned on how to move the decolonization process forward. Political sensitivity, a creative approach, and a sense of urgency are called for. In practice, on the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, it would seem important for the Special Committee to assess its past work and achievements in order to chart its way forward, together with the administering Powers, for the ultimate benefit of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. For my part, I shall continue to assist the international community to make progress in the area of decolonization.

Annex I

Replies received from Member States

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[6 August 2010]

1. The Argentine Republic once again declares its full support for and commitment to the decolonization process carried out by the United Nations through its relevant bodies, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the principles set forth in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). The Argentine Republic has a special interest in the successful and final completion of this process and is fully convinced that cooperation among all the States Members of the Organization will make it possible to achieve this goal.

2. The decolonization process is one of the most important successes of the United Nations and the Argentine Republic has demonstrated its firm commitment to that endeavour, by actively participating in the deliberations on decolonization in the Fourth Committee, establishing close cooperation with the Special Committee on decolonization and participating in the Caribbean and Pacific seminars that have been held since the first Decade.

3. During the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, which is about to end, the number of Non-Self-Governing Territories fell as a result of the independence of Timor-Leste. The Special Committee on decolonization continued its efforts to bring colonialism to an end through various activities such as, for example, monitoring the different processes related to the Territories and organizing regional seminars in the Pacific and the Caribbean to achieve the goals of the Second Decade.

4. However, colonial situations remain. To move forward with the important process of decolonization, the Special Committee should pursue its constructive programme of work, using a case-by-case approach that takes account of the particular political features of each such situation and the objectives and principles enshrined in resolution 1514 (XV), as indicated in resolution 1654 (XVI) establishing the Special Committee on decolonization.

5. In particular, the Argentine Republic attaches great significance to the sovereignty dispute between it and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, concerning which, throughout the Second Decade, the Special Committee on decolonization adopted consensus resolutions that:

(a) Define the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation;

(b) Recognize the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom;

(c) Request both Governments to resume negotiations in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful, just and lasting solution to the dispute, in accordance with the corresponding General Assembly resolutions on the question; and

(d) Reiterate their support for the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General in order to assist the parties in complying with the request made by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions.

6. Despite those many calls, the United Kingdom remains reluctant to negotiate and claims the right of the transplanted British population to exercise self-determination, thereby distorting that principle. This claim amounts to an assertion of its own right to self-determination and an attempt to make that population the arbiter of a dispute to which its own country is a party.

7. Decolonization and self-determination are not synonymous. Self-determination is one of the mechanisms for implementing decolonization, but it is not the only one, as resolution 1514 (XV) itself contains, in paragraph 6, another principle: that of preserving a country's national unity and territorial integrity. It is this principle that takes precedence in the question of the Malvinas Islands, because it is the territorial integrity of the Argentine Republic which is disrupted.

8. That is how the situation was understood in 10 General Assembly resolutions (2065 (XX), 3160 (XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12, 39/6, 40/21, 41/40, 42/19 and 43/25) and 22 resolutions of the Special Committee on decolonization, which describe the question of the Malvinas Islands as a special and particular colonial situation. That description reflects the specific circumstances of the question, namely that the United Kingdom usurped the islands by force in 1833, expelled their original population, prevented its return and replaced it with its own population. That is why in 1985 the General Assembly expressly rejected, by a clear majority, two British attempts to introduce the principle of self-determination into the consideration of the dispute.

9. The Argentine Republic has always shown a willingness to cooperate with the United Kingdom on practical issues deriving from the de facto situation in the South Atlantic, with due juridical protection and with the purpose of creating a framework that would allow both parties to resume the negotiations called for by the international community. However, since 1989 the United Kingdom, contrary to General Assembly resolution 31/49, which called on the parties to refrain from introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the negotiations were ongoing, has moved forward with the implementation of unilateral activities in the disputed territories and waters affecting, inter alia, the renewable and non-renewable natural resources found there.

10. On 25 February 2010, in his message to the opening of the Special Committee's session 2010, the Secretary-General said that, in the decolonization process, it was necessary to take each Non-Self-Governing Territory's particular features and specific circumstances into account, a position fully shared by the Argentine Republic. In that connection, Argentina reiterates its strong support for the steps being taken by the Secretary-General as part of his good offices related to the question of the Malvinas Islands and urges him to continue those efforts, aimed at finding a solution to the sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom, while reaffirming its complete willingness to assist him in carrying out that task.

11. The people and Government of Argentina attach great importance and high priority to the recovery of the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, while respecting the way of life of their inhabitants and abiding by the principles of international law. This is enshrined in the Constitution of Argentina as a permanent and irrevocable goal.

12. The Argentine Republic trusts that the work of the Special Committee on decolonization will help to ensure compliance with all the resolutions adopted by that body in relation to the question of the Malvinas Islands. It also trusts that the United Kingdom will respond to the calls resulting from the Secretary-General's good offices mandate and will assume the responsibility that is doubly incumbent on it as a permanent member of the Security Council by accepting its obligation to peacefully resolve this dispute in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Malvinas Islands.

13. This year, as we conclude the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of resolution 1514 (XV), it is worth remembering that for the United Nations, the continuation of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations is a crime which constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the principles of international law, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2621 (XXV), adopted on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Declaration. Forty years later, crimes of colonialism persist and it is our obligation to put an end to them; the international community and the Secretary-General can depend on the complete willingness and efforts of the Argentine Republic to contribute to their final eradication.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[18 August 2010]

1. Although the Second Decade will end in December 2010, the cause of decolonization is, and must remain, a priority for the United Nations since many United Nations goals in that area have yet to be met.

2. All States Members of the Organization are obliged to make a good-faith effort to ensure that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories can exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. The work of the Special Committee on decolonization arises directly from the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, which we have undertaken collectively and individually to respect and enforce.

3. As a specialized body of the United Nations for consideration of this issue, the Special Committee on decolonization has been making a serious, ongoing effort to fulfil its mandate and Cuba has worked long and hard to help to achieve its goals.

4. The Committee has pursued and strengthened dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers, representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and Member States.

5. The dispatch of visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories and the holding of regional seminars continue to provide a clear example of some of the successful practices adopted by the Special Committee in recent years. Such practices have increased the capacity of the United Nations to help the peoples of these Territories achieve the goals set forth in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and they will continue to do so.

6. The outcome of the regional seminars on decolonization are proof that these forums can promote the active participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and can help to mobilize international public opinion in favour of the provision of support and assistance to the peoples of these Territories.

7. However, the complete elimination of colonialism requires more than the seriousness and patience that mark the work of the Special Committee, a body that is working conscientiously to renew and strengthen its methods of work, and the efforts and good intentions of the vast majority of United Nations Member States.

8. The cause of decolonization also requires the full support of the administering Powers.

9. It is unacceptable that certain countries, on the pretext of making the United Nations more "efficient", are attempting to cast doubt on the continued validity of the cause of decolonization and are even questioning the very existence of the Special Committee. It is also disturbing that some administering Powers still refuse to cooperate with the Special Committee, thereby ignoring the relevant obligations arising from the Charter of the United Nations and from numerous General Assembly resolutions.

10. Cuba considers it particularly significant that for 11 consecutive years, the Special Committee has adopted by consensus a resolution which recognizes the inalienable right of the Puerto Rican people to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and which urges this august body to actively consider the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects.

11. The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, in which Cuba participates actively, has also conveyed to the Special Committee on decolonization its belief that the Puerto Rican question is an example of colonialism and has urged the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility to expedite a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people to fully exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. The Movement has also stressed the need for prompt implementation of the resolutions that the Special Committee has adopted on the colonial situation of Puerto Rico.

12. Puerto Rico is, and will continue to be, a Caribbean and Latin American nation. Despite over a century of colonial domination by the United States, the Puerto Rican people have never abandoned their valiant and difficult struggle to exercise their legitimate right to sovereignty and independence. This is why the Special Committee has adopted 29 resolutions and decisions on the question of Puerto Rico over the past 40 years.

13. The United Nations has also reaffirmed that the conflict in Western Sahara is a decolonization issue within the scope of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and that it therefore lies under direct United Nations responsibility. The Sahrawi people have a right to determine their own future.

14. It is extremely important for negotiations to continue with a view to a fair, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution leading to the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of agreements compatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

15. In addition, Cuba reiterates its full support for the legitimate right of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute concerning the Malvinas Islands, which are part of the national territory of this brother country of Latin America. In that context, it is extremely important to find a negotiated, just and definitive solution to the Malvinas issue as quickly as possible.

16. Every year, the General Assembly adopts resolutions on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Although Cuba is a developing country with limited resources, it has provided scholarships to inhabitants of these Territories and is pleased that over 2,000 of them have graduated from its schools and universities.

17. The Economic and Social Council has also adopted repeatedly, with support from the vast majority of States, a resolution sponsored by Cuba on support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations. The Territories have much to gain from the support that those bodies can provide. Some progress has been achieved, but much remains to be done.

18. Cuba welcomes the General Assembly's consensus endorsement of the Special Committee's decision to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of resolution 1514 (XV) in December 2010. Cuba attaches particular importance to commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of this historic resolution, which has been emblematic for the United Nations and, in particular, for the cause of decolonization.

19. Since its adoption in 1960, over 80 countries have gained independence, become part of the community of United Nations Member States and, above all, exercised their genuine right to self-determination.

20. This celebration highlights the importance of concerted action by all United Nations Member States in order to enable the Territories that have thus far been unable to exercise their genuine right to self-determination to do so as soon as possible.

21. In that regard, Cuba reiterates its firm commitment to the cause of decolonization and urges all Member States to continue to work together so that the scourge of colonialism can be eliminated forever.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[19 August 2010]

1. At the end of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, Ecuador congratulates the United Nations on its decolonization efforts based on the principles of the Charter, which oblige administering States to recognize the right of dependent Territories to achieve self-determination.

2. Ecuador is pleased that States, through dialogue in the Special Committee on decolonization, are considering and expressing their aspirations and rights based on the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted through General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 1960.

3. However, it is concerned at the slowness of this process and supports the Organization in its intention to put a rapid, unconditional end to colonialism. Ecuador's decision to become a member of the Special Committee on decolonization in order to review the Declaration and to formulate recommendations aimed at eradicating colonialism is proof of this support.

4. Ecuador has been a sponsor of all resolutions calling for recognition of the right of peoples to self-determination and independence and condemning colonialism and all forms of oppression, particularly in the case of the Malvinas, Western Sahara, Puerto Rico and all the Non-Self-Governing Territories; by so doing, it has demonstrated its solidarity with and support for their struggle.

5. Ecuador considers that the principle of territorial integrity, respect for the sovereignty of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes are key precepts of international relations and are embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in Ecuador's Constitution.

Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]
[13 August 2010]

1. Nicaragua considers that the Second Decade played an important role in education about and implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). However, there are still Non-Self-Governing Territories and peoples that have not fully achieved self-determination and independence and still suffer from the vestiges of colonialism; this makes immediate implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples essential.

2. The United Nations should continue and increase its efforts to achieve the total and complete eradication of colonialism. This issue is a high priority because decolonization, as a means of promoting international peace and security, is one of the missions of the United Nations.

3. Through the elimination of colonialism, these Non-Self-Governing Territories and peoples will achieve the full exercise of their inalienable rights, true enjoyment of human rights, happiness and participation in democratic life. It is deceptive to argue that a democratic process can exist or has existed under conditions of colonial domination.

4. We note with great concern that the plan of action for the Second International Decade cannot be completed by 2010. It is therefore urgent to give greater momentum to the decolonization process with a view to increased cooperation by the colonial Powers in all aspects thereof and, ultimately, to the final eradication of colonialism during the current decade.

5. Nicaragua therefore considers that draft resolution A/AC.109/2010/L.18 of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, in

which the period 2011-2020 is declared the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should be endorsed and adopted at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, in order to pursue the decolonization of these Non-Self-Governing Territories and peoples until they achieve self-determination and independence, a right enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and can become part of the community of nations and of all its multilateral and regional bodies, with all the rights and responsibilities pertaining thereto, and can contribute to a solution to all the problems faced by humankind.

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[19 August 2010]

1. This year the international community marks the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. That document gave a powerful impetus to the achievement of independence by colonial Territories. Its implementation ultimately led to the liberation of some 750 million people — one third of the world's population — from colonial domination, and changed the political map of the world dramatically with the establishment of more than 80 new independent States in Africa, Asia, the Pacific region and Latin America.

2. This is one of the most significant achievements in the history of the United Nations, and the Russian Federation can take pride in the fact that the Declaration was drafted and adopted at the initiative of the Soviet Union. As a permanent member of the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the Russian Federation has played and continues to play an active role in helping to liberate peoples from colonial dependence.

3. The General Assembly resolutions declaring the periods 1990-2000 and 2001-2010 as International Decades for the Eradication of Colonialism were important for the decolonization process. Significant efforts were made by the United Nations and the international community as a whole to implement the plans of action for the First and Second International Decades. Nevertheless, it should be noted that, while most colonial Territories have now achieved independence, the decolonization process is far from complete. There are still 16 Territories, with a population of approximately 2 million, that are subject to the Declaration on decolonization and that to this day have been unable to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. These are primarily small island Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. Assertions that the majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories would be unable to survive as independent entities or that their current status reflects the will of the indigenous populations must be carefully verified. The Russian Federation firmly upholds the position that territorial size, geographical isolation or limited resources should not affect the inalienable right of the inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories to self-determination and independence in accordance with the Declaration on decolonization. It is the responsibility of the administering Powers to create such conditions in those

Territories as would enable their peoples to exercise this inalienable right without interference.

5. As long as there are still colonial Territories in the world, there will continue to be a demand and a need for the work of the United Nations as a whole on decolonization, and in particular for the work of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The principles enshrined in the Charter, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other United Nations resolutions and decisions on Non-Self-Governing Territories are as relevant today as they were in the initial phase of United Nations activities.

6. Clearly, the current situation requires further intensive action by the United Nations, and by the international community as a whole, to achieve the completion of the decolonization process. In that context, the conclusions and recommendations of the 2010 Pacific regional seminar on the implementation of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and, in particular, the proposal that the General Assembly should consider the proclamation of a third international decade for the eradication of colonialism deserve support.

7. To ensure that the Decade achieves its aims, the United Nations and the international community as a whole should step up their efforts to eradicate colonialism. The development and implementation of a plan of action for a third international decade could contribute to that process. The Special Committee, while implementing its existing mandate, should play a more active role in monitoring the decolonization process and developments in the remaining colonial Territories, with particular attention to determining ways and means of overcoming obstacles to the achievement of genuine self-determination in each specific case. The constructive cooperation of the administering Powers with the United Nations, and with the Special Committee in particular, is essential. Issues relating to the dissemination of information on decolonization, including on political trends in the Territories and the positions of the administering Powers, remain important.

8. The Russian Federation stands ready to continue to make every effort to ensure that the last vestiges of colonialism on the planet are eradicated.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]
[5 August 2010]

1. Since the establishment of the United Nations, the question of the eradication of colonialism has been one of the essential pillars of the foreign policy of the Syrian Arab Republic. This concern explains the active role that the Syrian Arab Republic has played in the Organization's efforts to eradicate colonialism. The Syrian Arab Republic is of the view that the principles of the Charter concerning Non-Self-Governing Territories are as relevant today as when the United Nations was established. Thanks to the effective implementation of those principles, some 70 countries that are home to millions of people have achieved independence since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Nonetheless, there are still 16 Territories, which are home to

nearly 2 million people, that do not enjoy self-rule, and a number of other Territories that have not yet gained independence.

2. The work of the Special Committee on decolonization therefore continues to be vitally important. Syria has supported and will continue to support all of the Special Committee's endeavours aimed at ensuring full implementation of the Declaration.

3. Regrettably, the Special Committee has not received the necessary cooperation from certain administering Powers. Such cooperation is essential for progress towards full implementation of the Declaration. In accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV), the Syrian Arab Republic has once again called on the administering Powers that have not yet done so to take without delay legislative, administrative or other measures in order to put an end to the activities of enterprises under their jurisdiction that are involved in the reckless exploitation of the resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories. Military bases and facilities in the colonial Territories constitute another clear obstacle to the right of those peoples to self-determination and must be dismantled immediately.

4. The cooperation provided by the administering Powers to visiting missions has not been satisfactory. The dispatch of such missions to Territories is essential in order to obtain precise on-the-ground information and facilitate assistance to those peoples on the part of the United Nations.

5. By decision of the Special Committee, the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations has been designated Rapporteur of the Special Committee for the entire Decade and has participated in several international meetings.

6. Syria has voted in favour of all the resolutions on decolonization adopted in the Special Committee, as well as in the Fourth Committee and the General Assembly plenary, and implements any provisions relevant to Syria.

7. Throughout the years the Special Committee has made it a practice to periodically review its working methods and has adopted measures to make them more effective. Syria has made several proposals in that regard. It has also made specific proposals with regard to the Special Committee's efforts to improve the efficiency of the regional seminars on decolonization, an irreplaceable mechanism for dealing with problems of interest to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and obtaining first-hand information on their situation. Syria was an active participant in the regional seminars that were held during the Decade.

8. Syria has consistently emphasized the need to pay particular attention to small island Territories in view of the unique problems those Territories face because of their small size and population, lack of natural resources and vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental risks.

9. Syria has devoted great attention, both in the Fourth Committee and other General Assembly Committees, to the question of obtaining adequate funding, through the support of the United Nations system's principal financial institutions, for large-scale programmes that provide assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

10. Syria has consistently called for the application of the principle of self-determination in respect of peoples subject to colonial rule. Syria has supported all

resolutions concerning the question of the Malvinas, both in the Special Committee and the General Assembly. General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and subsequent resolutions emphasized the international community's awareness of the existence of a dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom concerning sovereignty that must be resolved through bilateral negotiations. The General Assembly, in its resolution 3160 (XVIII), indicated that the way to put an end to that colonial situation was the peaceful solution of the conflict of sovereignty between Argentina and the United Kingdom through bilateral negotiations based on the principle of territorial integrity. Syria has always supported the solution of the question of the Malvinas through negotiations between the United Kingdom and Argentina.

11. The Department of Political Affairs, in particular its Decolonization Unit, and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, have in recent years done excellent work in providing substantive and organizational assistance to United Nations efforts in the area of decolonization. In order for the Special Committee to function effectively, it is essential that the Secretariat continue to provide it with adequate substantive and technical assistance. The continued support for the Special Committee and the cause of decolonization shown by the Secretary-General merits special recognition.

12. Syria will continue to cooperate fully with the Special Committee, so that it may successfully execute the mandate given to it in 1961 by General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI).

13. Syria believes that it would be very important for the coming decade also to be proclaimed an International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, as a clear signal that the United Nations gives decolonization activities its highest priority. During the next Decade, the necessary continuity could be ensured and any unfinished tasks for achieving the objective of a world free of colonialism could at last be completed.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]
[19 August 2010]

1. The United Kingdom's relationship with its Overseas Territories is a modern one based on partnership, shared values and the right of each Territory to determine if it wishes to retain the link to the United Kingdom.

2. The British Government's relationship with the Overseas Territories is based on the following principles:

- self-determination
- mutual obligations and responsibilities
- freedom of the Territories to run their own affairs to the greatest degree possible
- a firm commitment from the United Kingdom to help the Territories develop economically and to help them in emergencies.

3. Those principles remain fundamental to the United Kingdom's relationship with the Overseas Territories. The United Kingdom is committed to the future

development and continued security of the Overseas Territories for as long as the Territories choose to retain the link with the United Kingdom. There is regular dialogue between British Government Ministers and Territory leaders on a wide range of issues of mutual interest. British Ministers and Overseas Territories Premiers, Chief Ministers and their equivalents all meet together each year in London for political discussions on issues of mutual interest. The United Kingdom continues to provide assistance to the Overseas Territories through the provision of technical and logistical support and, in the case of Montserrat, Pitcairn and St. Helena, through budgetary aid.

4. The United Kingdom's policy towards the Overseas Territories rests on the basis that it is the people of each Territory who determine whether they wish to stay linked to the United Kingdom or not. The United Kingdom has no intention of imposing independence against the will of the people concerned. It has been the established policy of successive British Governments to give every help and encouragement to those Territories where independence is the clearly and constitutionally expressed wish of the people, where this is an option. At this time, the presumption of the United Kingdom Government is that a referendum would be the way of testing opinion in those Territories where independence is an option. But the final decision on whether a referendum is necessary, and what form a referendum might take, would need to be determined by the United Kingdom, in the light of the particular circumstances in each Territory.

5. The link between the United Kingdom and the Overseas Territories is enshrined in the Constitution of each Territory. Consultation with the Territories over the past decade has showed a clear expression of their wish to retain the connection with the United Kingdom. Neither integration into the United Kingdom, nor Crown Dependency status, offers more appropriate alternatives to the present arrangements.

6. The overwhelming majority of decisions in the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories are taken by the Territory Governments in exercise of devolved powers. There is no wish on the United Kingdom's part to micromanage its relationship with the Overseas Territories. But as long as any Territory chooses to remain British, its Constitution must be agreed with the United Kingdom. As part of a constitutional review process launched in 1999, the United Kingdom agreed to consider carefully any proposals for constitutional change made by an Overseas Territory. The constitutional review process has taken the form of a bilateral negotiation, with the scope and pace largely being determined by the Territories themselves. The objective of the negotiations has been to agree the best possible modern constitutional arrangements that are acceptable to both the Territories and the United Kingdom. While the United Kingdom considers all proposals for constitutional development and change put forward by the Territories, it has also made clear to the Territories during the negotiations that, while the Territory chooses to remain British, the United Kingdom needs to retain sufficient powers to discharge its responsibilities for good governance, defence, external relations, and to meet contingent liabilities and fulfil international obligations applying to the Territories. The reviews also offer the opportunity to bring up-to-date provisions of the existing Constitutions, such as the human rights chapters, and to clarify the respective roles of the Governor and local politicians.

7. There has been progress on constitutional review with most Overseas Territories. New constitutions came into force in the Turks and Caicos Islands in 2006, the British Virgin Islands and Gibraltar in 2007, the Falkland Islands, Cayman Islands, St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha in 2009 and most recently Pitcairn in March 2010. Constitutional reviews are under way in other Territories (Anguilla and Montserrat).

8. In May 2007 a fourth round of negotiations was held with Montserrat for a new Constitution for that territory. Further informal discussions took place on Montserrat in March 2008, at which further progress was made. The process was put on hold after these talks as work on the redevelopment of Montserrat took priority over the constitutional review talks. But formal discussions have started again and the most recent negotiations were held in May 2010.

9. In August 2006, the Anguilla Constitutional and Electoral Reform Commission published its report with 147 recommendations relating to the revision of the Constitution of Anguilla. These are still under consideration in Anguilla. A first round of negotiations with the United Kingdom, scheduled for February 2009, was postponed at the behest of the Government of Anguilla. No dates have been set for negotiations.

10. In August 2009, an Order in Council was brought into force in the Turks and Caicos Islands which removed the constitutional right to trial by jury and suspended the ministerial Government and the House of Assembly for a period of two years (which can be shortened or lengthened). The Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands now has charge of matters of Government subject to instruction by the Secretary of State. The suspension of parts of the Constitution was considered an essential step to enable the restoration of the principles of good governance and sound financial management. Our intention is for elections to take place in July 2011, as previously scheduled.

11. In February 2010 a Constitutional and Electoral Reform Adviser was appointed to review the Turks and Caicos Islands 2006 Constitution and the current electoral system. Following wide consultation, she has published a set of initial recommendations to improve both while ensuring that the United Kingdom is able to retain sufficient control over areas of concern following the return to an elected government. A further round of public consultation will now take place and she and the Governor's team are encouraging all Turks and Caicos Islanders to engage in this process.

12. The end result of the constitutional review process must be a system which gives the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United Kingdom Government and the international community confidence that the basic principles of good governance, sustainable development and sound public financial management will be upheld. We cannot suspend the democratic process indefinitely.

13. Some commentators have suggested that the United Kingdom should agree to allow Territories the options for status set out in United Nations General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV). This identified three options for de-listing (i.e., removing Territories from the United Nations list of Non-Self Governing Territories). These were integration; independence; and free association. As already stated, the United Kingdom policy is not to agree to integration; and nor is there any indication that

any of the Territories are seeking this. The United Kingdom's position on independence has already been set out.

14. But the concept of free association, as defined by the General Assembly, would mean that the Territory itself would draw up its Constitution free from United Kingdom involvement. The United Kingdom would retain all responsibility for the Territory, but would not be able to ensure that it had the powers necessary to meet its responsibilities for the Territories. This is not a position the United Kingdom is willing to put itself in.

15. General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV) is not legally binding. Furthermore, the United Kingdom did not vote in favour of the resolution. It believes that the guiding principles for the relationship with the Territory should draw on the Charter of the United Nations. This states, inter alia, that an administering Power shall take due account of the political aspirations of the peoples of its Territories, and assist them in the progressive development of their free political institutions according to the particular circumstances of each Territory and its peoples and their varying stages of advancement. The United Kingdom places the utmost importance on these fundamental principles, which are at the heart of the constitutional review process.

16. The United Nations Declaration on the Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in Accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (1970), which elaborates the principle of self-determination, also makes clear that there is an option for the peoples of a Territory in addition to those set out in resolution 1541. It says that the establishment of a sovereign and independent State, free association or integration with an independent State or the emergence into any other political status freely determined by a people constitute modes of implementing the right of self-determination by that people.

17. This paper has set out the position of the United Kingdom and its Overseas Territories. The United Kingdom Government considers the existence of the Special Committee of 24 and the list of Non-Self Governing Territories to be outdated and remains of the view that none of its Overseas Territories should remain on the list.

Annex II

Replies received from United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

A. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. According to information provided, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supported during the Second Decade fisheries divisions and departments of Pacific Islands countries and Territories in their endeavours to implement an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. As part of this ongoing support, a regional workshop on ecosystem approaches to management of coastal fisheries in Pacific Island countries was held in Nadi, Fiji, from 17 to 21 November 2008, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Pacific Community. A subregional workshop on ecosystem approaches to management of coastal fisheries in Micronesia, organized by FAO and the secretariat of the Pacific Community, was held in Guam from 30 March to 3 April 2009.

2. In connection with these events, FAO and the secretariat of the Pacific Community developed guidelines for a community-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management, in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy. The guidelines are expected to be used widely in the Pacific region, including American Samoa, Guam and New Caledonia. Further, FAO provided technical publications on fisheries and aquaculture to American Samoa, Guam and New Caledonia, upon their request. Additional information can be found in document E/2010/54 of 4 May 2010.

B. United Nations Development Programme

1. With regard to the Pacific, information received from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided details of its ongoing support to Tokelau. In particular, the UNDP Community-Centred Sustainable Development Programme is aimed at supporting gender-centred initiatives focusing on environmental management; disaster risk reduction; climate change adaptation; sustainable livelihoods, including ecocultural tourism; food security; energy efficiency; and renewable energy use. In 2009, the Community-Centred Sustainable Development Programme helped all three atolls to become more resilient to the adverse impacts of climate change (i.e., rising sea levels) and natural disasters. The Community-Centred Sustainable Development Programme also funded the participation of two Tokelauan representatives to attend the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, which served to raise Tokelau's profile internationally as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change.

2. With regard to the Caribbean, information provided indicated that, during the Second Decade, poverty and social impact analyses were conducted on the consequences of the global economic crisis in several Eastern Caribbean islands, including Montserrat. Further, in the British Virgin Islands, UNDP has helped to build community resilience through a programme designed to reduce disaster risk

from landslides. Additional information can be found in document E/2010/54 of 4 May 2010.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

1. Information received from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) indicated that three Non-Self-Governing Territories have the status of Associate Members to UNESCO, namely the British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands and Tokelau. A consultation process has started with Bermuda, which has expressed an interest for Associate Membership. UNESCO employs every opportunity to engage with Non-Self-Governing Territories in any platform of action. A number of World Heritage sites are located in Non-Self Governed Territories, such as the Historic Town of St. George, Bermuda; the Lagoons of New Caledonia; and Henderson Island, Pitcairn.

2. During the Second Decade, activities in Non-Self-Governing Territories have included organizing and supporting a variety of projects in the fields of education, social and human services, natural sciences, culture, and communication and information. Activities in the Caribbean territories included providing support to a higher education conference for the Eastern Caribbean, for which UNESCO sponsored participants from Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands and Montserrat, a programme for the alleviation of youth poverty through tourism and heritage in the British Virgin Islands, and provided technical support to Montserrat to develop a national policy for a comprehensive response to HIV and AIDS.

3. In the Pacific region, UNESCO has provided support to Tokelau, including to the elaboration of education policy and planning, as well as mapping of HIV/AIDS integration and of education for sustainable development into national policies. Additional information can be found in document E/2010/54 of 4 May 2010.

D. World Health Organization

During the Second Decade, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that it carried out a variety of collaborative activities in American Samoa, Guam, New Caledonia and Tokelau on health-related issues. According to the information provided, WHO focused in American Samoa and Guam on fellowship support, including in the area of human resources for health capacity-building. In New Caledonia, WHO collaborative activities focused on technical assistance, for instance, in the area of the influenza A (H1N1) virus and the related coordination of the exchange of information in the Pacific region. With regard to Tokelau, WHO supported technical cooperation in the following health-related areas: non-communicable diseases; specialized human resources development; health system strengthening; health promotion; health information; food safety; HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infection; tobacco control; and environmental health. Additional information can be found in document E/2010/54 of 4 May 2010.

E. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean

1. During the Second Decade, Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean regularly participated in Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)-sponsored activities in their capacity as associate members. Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and the United States Virgin Islands have been associate members of ECLAC since 2000. The Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands became associate members in 2006 and 2008, respectively.

2. The ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean includes, as available, information on Non-Self-Governing Territories in both ad hoc and recurring studies and publications, such as the *Economic Survey of the Caribbean*. It also produced studies specifically related to issues of concern to Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as integration in the United Nations system, globalization, economic development, project and programme development. A meeting of the Working Group of Associate Member Countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee was held in August 2007 in Port of Spain, to discuss those issues. Furthermore, Non-Self-Governing Territories participated in meetings on issues related to the Caribbean, as a whole and received technical assistance on issues such as the socio-economic impact of disasters, trade integration, vital statistics and tourism sector development.